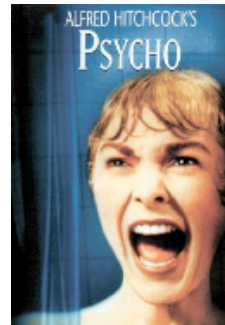
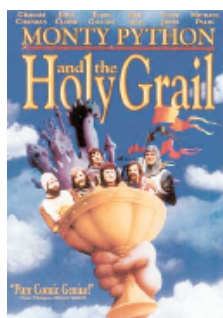
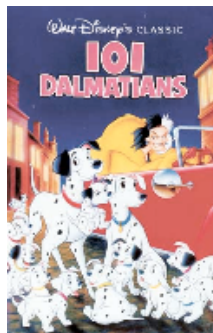


## Discoveries

# film Nights in the Park

The next best thing to a summer drive-in

By Mark Langton  
[Summer Movie Schedule](#)



As one San Rafael attorney remembers it, when she was a young teen in the early 1960's, drive-in movies were already on their way out. "And I am older than most laws," she said.

In those days, she said, even if you lived on this side of the Golden Gate Bridge, if you were Hispanic you went to the Geneva Drive-In by the Cow Palace near Daly City. It was just what you did on a really hot night.

Her clearest memory of those summer nights at the drive-in — more vivid than the smell of corn dogs, pink popcorn, Jujubes and Juicy Fruit gum, right up there with

the staggered echo of all the little speakers clipped to rows and rows of passenger-side windows, all rolled down half-way on account of the steam — was the sound of crying. The sobbing of young women.

“First you’d hear shouting from the guys,” she said. “Then you’d hear a couple of car doors slam. Maybe a broken bottle or two. And those boys, they’d go up to the front, and then it was time to either duck or dance.... Mostly, it was fists — maybe one time somebody had a gun. But louder than anything, louder than the cursing, louder than the movie soundtrack, even louder than the sirens on the cop cars that always came, was the sound of all those girls whose boyfriends got out of the car. Pleading with them not to go — then crying and crying after they left. ... It was kind of romantic, if you think about it. Anyway, it’s something you never forget.”

All the drive-in theatres are gone now, gone the way of the single-screen and the double bill, but these days there is something pretty close to it instead — minus the fireworks, the waterworks and the West Side Story ballet, of course.

Marin County’s “Film Night In The Park,” the North Bay’s original outdoor summer film festival, will return to its original (and favorite) outdoor venue, Creek Park in San Anselmo, among other outdoor venues around Marin, with an eclectic line-up of films that will feature a veritable rogues’ gallery of character actors, with films including “Monty Python and The Holy Grail,” “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” “Harold and Maude,” “Nightmare Before Christmas” and “Help!”

“Field of Dreams,” only just added, will be screened in San Geronimo on July 25.

The theme for Film Night in the Park’s 12th season is, “What a Character! Film Night Pays Tribute to What’s-His-Name,” a program that will sing the praises of the mostly unsung — great character actors and actresses, with special presentations honoring two of the best: Martin Balsam and Ruth Gordon.

The 2003 season kicks off June 28, with “The Sting” at Albert Park in San Rafael.

For more information about “Film Night at the Park,” call 990-7556.

Also, even though Hamilton will not be one of the outdoor venues this year, the City of Novato’s Multi-Cultural Commission is sponsoring their own outdoor summer film series, “Movies in the Park,” featuring a modern outdoor screen and high tech sound system, with a winning lineup of films. Screenings will take place in Pioneer Park. Admission is free for this family series (see schedule below). Films begin at dusk or about 8:15 p.m. For more information, call 897-4323.

### **Novato’s “Movies in the Park”**

Saturday, June 21: **Disney’s Lilo and Stitch** (Rated PG)

Saturday, July 19: **My Big Fat Greek Wedding** (Rated PG)

Saturday, Aug. 16: **The Color of Friendship** (Rated G)  
Pioneer Park

8:15 p.m. (or just after sunset).

Admission free.

For more info: 897-4323

**"Film Night in the Park,"** a project of the A.P.P.L.E.  
Family Works

## **JUNE**

Saturday, June 28, San Rafael\* • **THE STING**

## **JULY**

Friday, July 11, San Anselmo • **MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL**

Saturday, July 12, San Anselmo • **BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S**

Friday, July 18, San Anselmo • **HAROLD AND MAUDE**

Saturday, July 19, San Anselmo • **NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

Friday, July 25, San Geronimo • **FIELD OF DREAMS**  
(Screening just added)

Saturday, July 26 • San Anselmo **HELP!**

## **AUGUST**

Saturday, Aug. 2, San Rafael \* • **LADY AND THE TRAMP**

Friday, Aug. 8, San Geronimo\* • **YELLOW SUBMARINE**

Saturday, Aug. 9, Mill Valley\* • **ICE AGE**

Friday, Aug. 15, San Anselmo • **EAT, DRINK, MAN, WOMAN**

Saturday, Aug. 16, San Anselmo • **BIG NIGHT**

Friday, Aug. 22, San Anselmo • **12 ANGRY MEN**

Saturday, Aug. 23, San Anselmo • **DEAD MEN DON'T WEAR PLAID**

Friday, Aug. 29, San Anselmo • **PSYCHO**

Saturday, Aug. 30, San Anselmo • **101 DALMATIANS**  
(Original Disney version, 1961)

Sunday, Aug. 31, San Anselmo • **IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD**

## **SEPTEMBER**

Friday, Sept. 5, San Anselmo • **IRON GIANT**

Saturday, Sept. 6, San Anselmo • **THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH**

Friday, Sept. 12, San Anselmo • **EDWARD SCISSORHANDS**

Saturday, Sept. 13, San Anselmo • **THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY**

Friday, Sept. 19, San Anselmo • **ARSENIC AND OLD LACE**

Saturday, Sept. 20, San Anselmo • **MONSTERS, INC.**

Saturday, Sept. 27, Mill Valley\* • **O' BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?**

## **OCTOBER**

Saturday, Oct. 4, San Geronimo\* • **MY BIG, FAT, GREEK WEDDING**

SHOWTIMES: About dusk (special events including live music and raffles start at 8 p.m.)

## **LOCATIONS:**

Main location: San Anselmo - Creek Park,  
near the 400 block of Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

\* San Rafael - Albert Park, B Street & Albert Park Lane,

San Rafael

\* Mill Valley - Old Mill Park, at the 300th block of  
Throckmorton Ave.

\* San Geronimo - San Geronimo Cultural Center, 6350 Sir  
Francis Drake Blvd.

Admission: \$5 adults, \$2 children

Phone: 453-4333

[www.filmnight.org](http://www.filmnight.org)

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